



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
6013 Lakeside Blvd.  
Indianapolis, IN 46278

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May 24, 2007

INDIANA BULLETIN NO. IN300-7-24

SUBJECT: LTP – WRP Forest Land Compatible Use Guidelines

**Purpose:** To provide guidelines to Area and Field level employees on timber harvest as a compatible use on WRP Easements.

**Expiration Date:** September 30, 2007

**Background:** This bulletin provides Indiana Policy for granting compatible use permits for timber harvest activities on WRP Easements.

Timber harvest has been a permissible compatible use on WRP easements since the inception of the WRP program, but it is not a guaranteed use. Only activities that further both the long-term protection and enhancement of the wetland and other natural values of the project area are authorized as a compatible use.

The emphasis of WRP is to protect, restore and enhance the functions and values of wetland ecosystems. Special emphasis is given to the provision of habitat for migratory and wetland dependent wildlife including threatened and endangered species. The compatible use approval (CUA) process only considers activities that further the long-term protection and enhancement of the wetland and other natural values of the project area. All compatible uses will protect or enhance habitat for migratory birds or threatened or endangered species.

In Indiana:

1. Compatible Use Requests for Timber Harvesting will only be considered in the following circumstances (NRCS in consultation with the US FWS will have final approval of all Compatible Use Requests).
  - a. A Wildlife Professional submits a Timber Harvesting plan necessary to improve the habitat for the State or Federal listed species of concern identified and awarded points in the original WRP Ranking used to select the WRP offer.
  - b. A Wildlife Professional submits a Timber Harvesting plan necessary to improve the habitat for Indiana Bat.
2. All other WRP-enrolled Forested Lands will be managed for wildlife species requiring Old Growth Habitat (with a permanent easement, WRP may be one of the few guarantees in the immediate landscape that will provide old growth habitat)...therefore, Compatible Use Requests will not be considered unless criteria 1a or 1b are met.

DIST: 0

If you have further questions concerning WRP Compatible Use Requests please contact Harold Thompson, Assistant State Conservationist (Programs) at (317)290-3200. ext. 320 or Jerry Roach, WRP Coordinator at (812) 752-2269.

/s/

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State Conservationist